

**UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**Division of Epidemiology & Laboratory Services**

**Prescription Pain Medication Management & Education**

- Ongoing Funds Requested.....\$100,000

**Justification:** Since 2000, Utah has experienced a more than four-fold increase in deaths associated with prescribable opioid pain medications.

**Key Facts:**

- Unintentional deaths due to prescribable opioid medications are the **4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death** for Utahans between 25-54 years of age.
- Deaths of Utah residents from non-illicit drug poisoning (unintentional or intent not determined) have increased from about 50 deaths per year in 1999 to 276 in 2006.
- At least one death occurred in 24 out of the 29 counties in Utah, suggesting that the problem spans both the urban and rural population.

In the 2007 legislative session, HB 137 directed UDOH in collaboration with several other agencies to develop a program to address this problem, including an investigation into the causes and education aimed at preventing this problem.

**Key Facts about HB 137:**

- Funding is for two years.
- The first year was matched by funds from other sources allowing implementation of the program (including research and education).
- Without supplementary, ongoing funding the program will not be able to adequately address the problem beyond the first year.

**Funding Appropriated**

FY 2008 Total: \$500,000

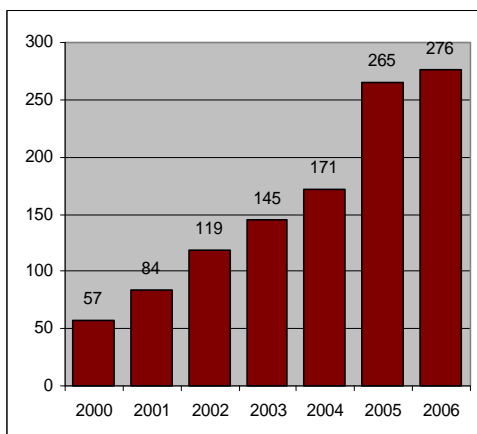
FY 2009 Total: \$150,000-\$300,000

FY 2010 Total: \$0

**Summary:**

Ongoing funding is necessary to sustain the investigation and educational efforts initiated by HB 137 to complete the full intent of the bill to prevent these tragic deaths.

**Number of Poisoning Deaths Caused by Prescribable Opioids (with No Illicit Drugs Involved) By Year**



For more information, contact:

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